

# DEPARTMENT REPORT

## JANUARY, 2014

### DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- The Health Director continues to coordinate state legislative activities for the Department and the Mayor's Office. The Mayor's Office Legislative Review Team meets weekly during the legislative session. An update will be provided at the February Board of Health meeting.
- The Department continues budget preparations for the biennial 2014-2016 budget. The Health Director and Information and Fiscal Operations Manager met with each division to determine funding priorities. The Department's budget request will be submitted to the City Finance Department at the end of February.
- The Health Director provided an orientation and tour of the Department to Miku Sodhi, the new Executive Director of the People's Health Center.
- The Health Director attended the Lancaster County Mid-Year Budget Retreat on January 30, 2014.
- The Health Director continues to work with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation on "Aging Out" of foster care initiative.
- The Health Director and Environmental Health Division staff continue to meet with the Mayor's Office and Public Works and Utilities on the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Employee of the Month – Laura Conant – Environmental Public Health

### ANIMAL CONTROL

#### Animal Control Statistics

	Sep- Dec 11	Sep- Dec 12	Sep- Dec 13
<b>Pet Licenses Sold</b>	19181	20121	19885
<b>Cases Dispatched</b>	7330	7907	8036
<b>Investigation</b>	7915	8387	8581
<b>Animals Impounded</b>			
<b>Dogs</b>	540	498	527
<b>Cats</b>	573	401	490

<b>Court Citations Issued</b>	73	122	133
<b>Warnings/Defects Issued</b>	4020	5314	6080
<b>Bite Cases Reported</b>	151	147	148
<b>Attack Cases Reported</b>	12	17	11
<b>Dogs Declared (PPD, DD,V)</b>	25	28	29
<b>Animal Neglect Investigations</b>	172	212	174
<b>Injured Animal Rescue</b>	261	221	221
<b>Wildlife Removal</b>	135	141	116
<b>Dead Animal Pickup</b>	776	651	564
<b>Lost and Found Reports</b>	772	852	684
<b>Phone Calls</b>	15011	16324	14223
<b>Average Response Time (in mins)</b>	16	12	15

- Animal Control staff continue to meet with staff from the Capital Humane Society twice per month.
- A half day Animal Emergency Response planning and table top exercise will be held on February 18, 2014. The exercise and planning session will include participation from officers, dispatch and Humane Society operations staff and shelter staff.
- Cold weather calls have increased and we continue to alert the public about the precautions they need to take to assure their outdoor pets have adequate shelter, water and food. This Information was also updated and posted on the Animal Control website.
- Dog and cat impounds were up for December and January. The cold weather maybe a cause for the increased impounds. Fewer animals are being reported lost and we have worked to keep our lost and found website current so owners of lost pets can quickly report animals.
- Animal Control staff continue to assess the effectiveness and benefits of having an officer co-located at the Capital Humane Society's Park Boulevard facility. The desired outcome is to help with customer service and dispatch calls from a second location to reach the public sooner.
- Animal Control will promote pet license sales on the website and attempt to do more public education to increase pet license sales and the renewal of delinquent pet licenses. Our goal is to increase pet license sales by 3% annually.
- Amanda Escobedo began employment as an Animal Control Officer on January 21<sup>st</sup>. She

will be in orientation and training for 3-4 weeks.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

### **HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE**

- The CHS Division is partnering with other community agencies who play a specific role in the federal Health Insurance Marketplace: Community Action Partnership of Lancaster & Saunders Counties, Ponca Tribe of NE, People's Health Center, Lancaster County Medical Society, Community Health Endowment of Lincoln, Center for People in Need, Aging Partners, AARP, NE Appleseed, NDHHS/Division of Medicaid, and the Health Center Association of NE. Between community partners and LLCHD, over 600 individuals have been helped to; (a) increase their understanding of health insurance options, (b) apply for premium assistance, or (c) enroll in a qualified health plan on the federal Health Insurance Marketplace or NE Medicaid since October 1, 2013.
- AARP, NE Appleseed, and the CHS Division Manager were members of a panel in an educational/outreach event presented to those who are uninsured at the Center for People in Need on January 28. Immediately after that event, appointments were offered to help the uninsured learn more about their health insurance options and/or enroll in the federal Health Insurance Marketplace or NE Medicaid. CHS and People's Health Center Certified Application Counselors will staff the appointments every Tuesday in February and March during the open enrollment period (ending March 31, 2014). A DHHS Community Support Specialist will be available to help individuals with Medicaid questions at three of our events. Appointments are available two hours before a weekly food distribution event at Center for People in Need which is typically attended by 400-500 people. Interpretation will be available. Center for People in Need staff are providing access to their computer lab and are helping to coordinate the event along with AARP volunteers.

### **DIABETES SUPPORTS FOR THE POOR & UNINSURED**

- Adults with diabetes who are uninsured and are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (no more than \$11,490 income per year) are eligible for diabetes case management which includes no-cost glucometer strips, assistance paying for medication, help in establishing a medical home, medication education services from a pharmacist, transportation assistance to medical appointments, and chronic disease self-management classes. Thus far, 24 patients have been referred to the program from Clinic with a Heart, People's Health Center, Bryan Health, Saint Elizabeth's Regional Medical Center, Lincoln ED Connections, General Assistance, and CenterPointe. The most common needs at the time of referral are: no medical home, lack of understanding of diabetes, need to improve self-management, lack of transportation, lack of knowledge of prescribed

medication, language/cultural barrier, needing assistance to pay for medication, mental health needs, and not keeping appointments with their primary care physician. All patients are assisted by the diabetes case manager through a plan of care and coordination with community partners. The program is funded by the Nebraska Legislature and the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln.

## DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

### WIC

#### Caseload (Participation): (301 report)

<b>Total</b>	3496
<b>Main</b>	2547
<b>LMEP</b>	225
<b>Cornhusker Clinic</b>	724

#### Food: For July 2013 -

<b>Food Monthly Obligations</b>	\$ 225,729.52
<b>Food Pkg Avg.</b>	\$ 68.37
<b>Women</b>	\$ 41.90
<b>Infants</b>	\$ 144.55
<b>Children</b>	\$ 44.91

#### Mentoring:

(Number and school)

<b>Students</b>	6 UNMC RN students
<b>Interns</b>	
<b>Volunteers</b>	2
<b>LMEP Residents</b>	2

#### Dental Health

- Total Patients Served (unduplicated) – 526 clients
- Children – 319 (61%)
- Total Patient Visits (duplicated provider count) – 824 visits
- New Patients – 180 clients
- Racial/ Ethnic Minorities/Non-English – approximately 65%
- Of total clients served: 56% enrolled in Medicaid; 32% fell at or below poverty, receiving services at the minimum fee for service; 10% fell in the range of 101-200% of poverty, receiving services on a sliding fee scale; and 2% were enrolled in General Assistance, receiving services at no fee.

- Total clients seen during Thursday evening extended hours – 62 clients (unduplicated) for 101 patient visits (duplicated provider count). Of total clients seen during extended hours, 61 were children (98%); 63% were enrolled in Medicaid; 34% fell at or below poverty, receiving services at the minimum fee for service; 5% fell in the range of 101-125% of poverty, receiving services on a sliding fee scale of 25% of a Usual and Customary Fee for Service.
- New Patient Minority Health Clients (Minority Health Grant) – 38 clients

#### Community Based Outreach Activities:

- School based dental screenings at Fredstrom Elementary School
  - Screening and Fluoride Varnish Program at Educare Center – Total of 109 children during 2 site visits
- Dental Staff attended internal HIPAA Training by Kathy Cook, Information & Fiscal Management Manager and Jeff Kirkpatrick, Assistant City Attorney

## ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

### Child Care Health Consultation Services

LLCHD's Child Care Health Consultation Services protect the health of children, their families and our community by preventing communicable disease outbreaks that originate in child care settings. Simply put, children are more susceptible to communicable disease than adults. Many child care centers lack adequate health and safety practices, especially those sites that serve low income or racial/ethnic minority families. Improving the training of staff, updating policies, and obtaining input from skilled health professionals decrease the incidence of disease and improves health and safety in child care centers. Through implementation of the Child Care Health Consultation Services with the assistance of Nebraska Health Care Funding Act dollars we have reduced the frequency of outbreaks and the number of children and families impacted.

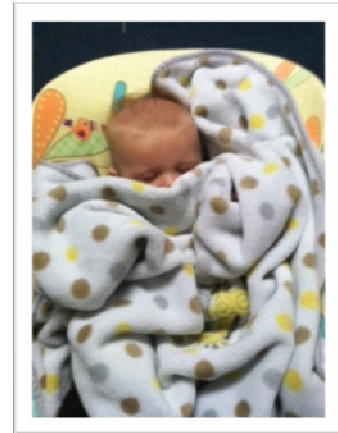


Fork by a hand wash sink

The Lincoln Municipal Code 8.14 requires health and safety training for child care center staff every two years. The two hour training includes health information such as illness prevention and exclusion, diapering, hand washing, and food safety. The training is revised every two years to keep the interest of the over 1500 participants and increase subject matter retention. The training was re-designed as an interactive experience soliciting photos from child care staff in an effort to make the new training relevant to them. Photos from the local child care centers have assisted the participants to relate to the covered material. *(598 child care staff attended the Health and Safety Training this year.)*



Left: Staff snacks stored under a diaper station.  
Right: Infant in an unsafe sleep environment.



LLCHD Child Care Health Consultant performs on-site assessments of child care center environments and program operations, in addition to assisting directors in the development and implementation of improvement plans. Staff use a coaching model to increase the individual's "buy-in" in making behavior changes (*1107 children and 302 staff reached through consultation*). Unique solutions to health and safety barriers are identified and implemented. Over the past year Asthma and Allergy was the top implemented policy followed by Safe Sleep, Illness Exclusion, Medication Administration, Field Trip, and Staff Manual Policies (*94 Recommendations and 84 Voluntary Health Policy Actions Implemented*). Facilities have been known to totally remodel their playground upon receiving the detailed assessment and recommendations. Even though health and safety is the primary concern the Child Care Health Consultant has provided special trainings on Supervision, Epi, Medication Administration, and Autism (*198 Child Care Staff Attended Specialty Trainings*).

The Caring for Our Children, Health and Safety Performance Standards for Early Care Programs recently changed safe sleep and illness exclusion guidelines. New materials on the new guidelines were developed and mailed to all child care centers. Additionally the Child Care Health and Safety facebook page (Healthy Child Care Environments Lincoln-Lancaster Co.) has weekly topic posts specific to health and safety in child care. (*Over 144 Child Care Centers reached by Education*)



Better control measures when mixing bleach solutions were needed due to a change in bleach concentration and concerns noted by LLCHD inspectors during visits. Materials were developed for Bleach Safety kits to be distributed to child care centers using 8.25% concentrated bleach. Pumps to dispense the correct amount of bleach to make a sanitizing and disinfecting solution were ordered so kit distribution could begin in January 2014.

2013 NDEQ Litter Reduction grant funds are now being used to develop an Eco-Healthy Child Care initiative. This initiative has included working with City Recycling Coordinator, Gene Hanlon to identify potential recycling options for child care centers. Our Child Care Health Consultant developed and piloted an Eco-Healthy Child Care Assessment, focusing on waste reduction and litter prevention. Our Child Care Health Consultant and Keep Lincoln-Lancaster County Beautiful Coordinator have worked well together to wisely expend extra grant funds to purchase recycling containers for child care centers, materials for Eco-Healthy Child Care training, and purchase 6 vermicomposting kits (aka Worm Farm complete with Red Wiggler worms) for a diverse group of child care centers, five of which accept families with Child Care Subsidy.

## HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

- While flu activity picked up in late December and has continued into January, it hasn't resulted in a high number of school absences or an unusually high number of hospitalizations locally or in Nebraska. Additionally, many of the states that had the highest rates of flu activity early in the season are seeing a decline in activity. We can hope that we may have peaked or leveled off in activity, and that the health impact will not be significant. However, even though the disease is not as virulent as in some years, we have already had four deaths in the state (two in Lancaster County) attributed to the flu. It's still too early to draw the conclusion that this is a mild flu season. From the historical data we know that past peaks in flu activity have often occurred in late February and in most years flu continues to circulate at elevated rates until April and sometimes, May.
- Remember, the recommendation from the CDC is that everyone six months or older get a flu immunization. Fortunately, it appears that this year's flu vaccines are a good match for the flu types that are showing up (H1N1 2009 and H3 A viruses) in the country so if you've been vaccinated you should have a good chance of protection. Additionally, since H1N1 2009 is the dominate strain circulating and it affects the younger population (those under 64) more than the elderly it's imperative that teens, young adults and adults under 65 get vaccinated.
- Another disease that is seemingly always present in the community, but sometimes rises when people cluster together in the winter months, or in group quarters such as dorms and nursing homes, is norovirus. It's one of the more common gastrointestinal illnesses,

commonly called “stomach flu.” The symptoms of norovirus are typically vomiting and diarrhea that are self-limiting (a day or so), but people can experience a fever or dehydration. Norovirus outbreaks have been showing up in Lincoln recently, and while it is not a reportable disease, when there’s a cluster of cases we do investigate and prescribe control measures, especially in group settings or if a food source is implicated. Norovirus is spread easily from being in contact with a sick person, touching contaminated surfaces or ingesting a food source that is contaminated. Avoiding someone who is sick (or requiring them to isolate them self or be excluded from work until well), proper hand washing, and utilizing a strong enough solution to disinfect door handles, surfaces, objects or utensils that may be contaminated are the most effective preventive methods to avoid the spread of norovirus.

- One of our newer staff members, Randy Fischer, Grant Coordinator II, and our other HDE staff working on emergency preparedness have been conducting tabletop exercises with the hospitals, Lincoln Fire and Rescue, Lancaster County Emergency Management and other first responders and partners in Southeast Nebraska. The scenario is a mass casualty event related to winter weather conditions. The tabletop exercise and the full-scale exercises to be conducted in March and April meet a number of grant and regulatory requirements for all community partners. Mr. Fischer has a background in training and exercising and is working with Lancaster County Emergency Management to help plan for and coordinate the required exercise needs of the Department and our many community and regional partners.
- The BRFSS dashboard has been enhanced by including state and national comparison data for 2011 and 2012 BRFSS indicators--see <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/brfss/index.htm>.

## **HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH**

### **Chronic Disease Prevention and Minority Health**

- Staff are meeting individually with Minority Health Initiative grant partners and the project evaluator to determine ways to improve documentation and potential outcomes. New reporting forms that will help us capture more information on the demographics of the populations served and outcomes related to health and health behaviors have been developed and will be used in the next grant reporting cycle. The project evaluator is assisting staff and partners to assess the landscape of American Indian health services in Lancaster County.
- Staff are working with Lincoln Parks and Recreation staff to develop an application to Kaboom to become the State’s first “Playful City”. Becoming a “Playful City” supports Lincoln’s Let’s Move! City designation by the National League of Cities. The focus of this designation is on play spaces for children and supports the proposition that cities are



critical drivers to ensure that children get the quality active play they need to be healthy. Becoming a “Playful City” also contributes to the work being done by the GO! Team to advance the 54321 GO! message especially as it relates to physical activity for children.

- Staff and the GO! Team partners continue to work to broaden the reach of the 54321 GO! message. City Libraries are displaying the 54321 GO! posters and providing children with the bookmarks. This summer, each library will focus two weeks on physical activity and nutrition and will use the message as the basis for the activities and instruction. The LPS Wellness Coordinator is promoting the message to all Lincoln Public Schools through newsletters and quarterly wellness challenges. Efforts continue to evaluate how children and families are using this message to improve health behaviors.

### **Tobacco Prevention**

- Staff coordinated a Tobacco and ID training for 23 managers/employees of tobacco retailers to help them prevent selling tobacco to minors. These classes are held at the Justice and Law Enforcement Center. The free trainings are conducted by Sgt. Tom Towle from the Lincoln Police Department and Pam Rowe, Tobacco Health Educator from the LLCHD Tobacco Prevention Program. Participants are taught: 1) what to look for when checking a driver’s license or ID card; 2) what to do when a minor attempts to purchase tobacco; 3) what the laws in the State of Nebraska are concerning tobacco; and 4) how to keep tobacco products safely displayed in your business.

### **INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

- The Division Manager and Fiscal Office Supervisor are preparing the FY 2015 and FY 2016 budget submission in collaboration with the Health Director and Division Managers.
- The Report Development group has met several times this month. They are working on improving the authorizations for access to dashboard to assure both security concerns and increase the ease of use for staff. We are planning to bring a trainer in late spring or early summer to train all the new staff who are responsible for report development.